

City of Martinsville



The Grapevine



January 2012

*City Of Martinsville
"Shared Vision" – As faithful stewards of the public trust, we will create, in partnership with the citizens of Martinsville and the surrounding region, a strong, innovative, and unified community where every citizen may have the opportunity to become self-sufficient with satisfaction, pride and a high quality of life. "A City without Limits"*

January Birthdays

Sharon Echols	Jan 1
JR Heffinger	Jan 2
Clarence Monday	Jan 4
Esther Artis	Jan 5
Ronnie Gammons	Jan 6
Nick Stevens	Jan 7
Andy Lash	Jan 11
Michael Bradshaw	Jan 19
John Kaczor	Jan 20
Mark Chambers	Jan 23
Ben Peters	Jan 24
Dallas Hairston	Jan 24
Jody Duncan	Jan 25
Eric Eggleston	Jan 26

STOP LINE (from the Transportation & Safety Commission)

Stop lines are wide painted lines across top of traffic lanes at traffic lights. Why won't the traffic light change to green for me? It may be because your traffic signal uses a loop detector. Loop detectors are the most common sensor in use, for now, but are being phased out in favor of video sensors.

It consists of a groove cut into the pavement, usually a fairly large rectangular shape. Several wraps of copper wire are placed in the groove to form a large coil, or loop. The groove is then filled in with asphalt or tar. They are easy to spot, especially in left turn lanes. The loop is connected to the traffic signal control box, and basically acts as a huge metal detector. A vehicle passing above the loop disturbs its magnetic field, putting in a 'call' to the signal controller.

It is important to be sure to stop your car in the right place! The front bumper of your vehicle should be about even with the white 'stop line' on the road. If you stop several feet back from the line, chances are the signal will skip your turn! Same thing if you stop past the line. You could sit there all day at a red light! At least one vehicle has to be at the stop line to trigger the signal.

Ever wonder why that stoplight won't change? Read this article to find out why.

If you're approaching a red light and there is more than one straight-ahead lane, don't use the right-most lane to go straight. The sensor for the right lane often has about a 10 second delay programmed into it, in case you plan on making a right turn on the red light. But the inner lanes will

Comings and Goings...let's welcome new employee Mary Price (Housing) and say good-bye to Vollie Norris (Police).



Congratulations to the West Piedmont Business Development Center and Linda and Kermit Kanode for receiving the Gateway Streetscape Curb Appeal Awards.

Kudos to the Fire Department from Vanessa Miller: I asked your crew for help with installing my grandson's car seat base. They listened to my concerns & answered my questions. I know they are paid & it was their duty to correctly install the base BUT they also gave great customer service AND peace of mind to a grandmother....thanks to all.

Amy Stout, who lives on a cul-de-sac in the city, sends praise to a **"Mr. Flood" (Eddie)** who works for the Martinsville Public Works for the job he did clearing the fallen leaves from the many trees where she lives. "We can clear our yard of leaves one day, and the next day, the yard is filled again. In all my years living in the city, this is by far the best job they have ever done cleaning the leaves off of the street," she wrote. "I just wanted to give recognition where recognition is due and a big shout out to **Mr. Eddie Flood!**"

Service Milestones Reached in January

Leon Towarnicki	Public Works	30 years
Donald Lucado	Fire	20 years
Mike Scaffidi	Public Works	20 years
Robert Jones	Police	10 years

JANUARY RETIREMENTS

Ercell Cowan – Registrar
David Wallace – Sheriff's Department

LIPITOR GENERIC NOW AVAILABLE

A new generic drug called atorvastatin is now available for the brand name Lipitor, a drug often used to help lower cholesterol. This good news means you can save on your prescription drug cost if your doctor agrees that switching to the new generic drug is right for you.

THE LAST \$25 KROGER GIFT CARD WINNER FOR 2011.
The winner for December is Coretha Gravely (Police).
CONGRATULATIONS, Coretha

We will start back with 12 chances to win in 2012

Toys for Tots Report: Thank you for your support of Toys for Tots, we collected 158 toys and \$97.00.

Santa's elves were busy in the Fire & EMS Department recently. The guys put together about 75 bicycles for Salvation Army and some individuals. Great job guys!

Anthem Representative Michelle Hartman will be onsite Wednesday, January 18th. She will be in HR at 9:30 AM. Let Donna or Kathy know if you need to meet with her.

Total Calls Taken In The Month Of November

🚓 **Police – 2762** 🚒 **Fire –37** 🚑 **EMS –225**

Announcements

Blaine Adkins (Public Works) and Brittany Wilson were married on November 19th.

Rebecca (Cobbler) Lawson (Library) and Darrel Lawson were married on November 11th.

Condolences go out to.... Linda Kanode in the death of her aunt....and to Betty Roach (retiree) in the death of her mother Mildred Turner on Dec 8....and to the family of William Williams (retiree) who passed away on Dec 13th.



Employees enjoying holiday lunch.....



Congratulations to the following for being recognized by the Fontaine Ruritan Club: Cpl Michael Law of the Sheriff's Department & Officer E. C. Stone of the Police Department.

Congratulations to Kris Bridges (Inspections) for being elected First Vice-President of the Virginia Building & Code Officials Association.

Retirement Plan Limits for 2012. The IRS has announced limits to retirement plan contributions for 2012.

Annual Deferral Limit - \$17,000
Age 50 Catch-up Limit - \$5,500
Pre-Retirement Catch-up Limit - \$17,000

Let HR know if you want to make a change in your ICMA contribution.